MULVANY'S GREAT PICTURE

How It Was Painted and How It Looks-Accurate in Detail -Criticisms and

BUTTE. March 18.—John Mulvany, the artist, whose great painting of "Custer's Last Rally" is on exhibition at Maguire's opers house, had a personal acquaintance with the brave Custer, and spent several years in Montana and on the battle ground of the Little Big Horn, at the forts, among the frontiersmen, soldiers and Indians, for the purpose of aketching the picture from reality, or the best that could be got of it. He spant much time among Rene's soldiers, and learned all there was to learn of that heroic and memorable last rally, and the result was a wonderful painting, both artistically and historically correct. The vast canvas presents a painfully real and overwheiming picture of that awful struggle in the midst of terrific fighting. Some 50 figures are there is full finish and detail and of life size, in the middle, and many times that number over the rest of the ground, and swarms of savage Sioux in their war bonnets, frantic, mostly on ponies, driving through the background, through snocke, like a hurricane of demons. Many of the figures are wonderful. Custer stands in the middle with dilated eye and extended arm, aiming a huge cavalry pistol and fighting to the death, and one can almost hear the echo of his famous "Come on, boys, come on; we'll whip h—I out of them." His hores is superbly drawn, and full of fire and action. Captain Cook, wounded and bloody, half kneeling, is near Custer, cooly aiming his revolver. The dead and the dying soldiers and Indians; the slaughtered horses used for hreastworks, all inexpressibly dreaful and real, yet with an attraction and beauty that impresses itself indelibly upon the memory. The great artist concentrated upon that awful carnage his genius, the eye sees nothing but the figures engaged in that desperate struggle, and the necessary landscape on the picture is but an incident. Mulvany painted Custer and his last rally.

Many who see the painting express surprise and disappointment to see Custer's famous long hair missing, but even in that the picture is historical

lever of colored. Superior that the Indians were in the valley of the Little Big Horn. He crossed the divide between the Rosebud and the Little Big Horn by day-light the following morning, June 26th, found himself on one of the small rhebund and the Little Big Horn by day-light the following morning divides the property of the companies under Major Reno, three under Captain Benteen, one under Captain McDougail to guard the pack train, and taking five companies under Major Reno, three under Captain Benteen, one under Captain and the surprise the village, to advance to the attack at once. Reno was credered forward to cross the little Big Horn and charge the head of the Indian village, Bentisen to more well to the best and rapidly them, and fi not, to join Reno in his fight, which would by that time necessarily be on. These movements were not only to feel the enemy but to make the more important sovement that Caster was about to make, which was to case the ladian would be called, first, to Reno's attack and then te Benteen's coming to he support, should be have done so. Custer's dises was to charge the Indians with terline seed of the control of

lic. Mr. Mulvany holds a theory that is somewhat startling, in that he blames General Grant for Custer's frightful end and the disaster attending it. Early in 1870 it was determined by the government to make war upon the hostile Sioux, then presumably under Sitting Bull. General Terry, who was in command of the department, was ordered to cooperate with General Crook, who was to move upon the hostiles from Fort Russell, near Cheyenne. A small column from the Northwest was also to ecoperate. The column under General Terry was forming at Fort Lincoln, under the direction of General Custer, and that officer was designated by Generals Sherman and Sheridan to its command. The reason for this was purely Custer's former brilliant handling of the Indian troubles in Southern Kanasa and on the Washita. He was recognised as the best indian fighter of the day by the foremest generals of the army. But while he was hard at work organising for the campaign he was summoned to Washington as a witness to testify so to some irregularities in the war department. He went to Washington, appeared before the congressional investigating committee, answered their questions and at ones sought to return to his command at Fort Lincoln. Etiquette demanded that he should see and take leave of the president, and also General Sherman, then general of the armies, superceding General Grant. President Grant refused to see General Custer. Three times he called at the white house, but was each time compolled to wait for hours, nor did a letter he wrote to the president have any hetter result. Custer learned that the president was incensed against him for having testified, and hence his persistent efforts to have an interview and disabuse the president was incensed against him for having testified, and hence his persistent efforts to have an interview and disabuse the president was incensed department of the was engaged in the conspiracy, carried the stain almost to the seat of the president. The common to the same of the result of the result of the

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